

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 03743 101201Z

50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 MC-02 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 OMB-01

CU-04 /156 W

----- 105373

P R 101100Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8939

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3743

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, LA

SUBJECT: COUP RUMORS IN VIENTIANE

REFERENCE: VIENTIANE 3702

1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, VIENTIANE IS SEETHING WITH RUMORS REGARDING A POSSIBLE COUP OR MILITARY ACTION ON MAY 11TH. THE GENERAL DRIFT OF INFORMATION WHICH IS BEING PASSED IN DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL CIRCLES IS THAT THE AMERICANS/ THAIS/ULTRA RIGHTISTS/FAR/SANANIKONES ARE PLANNING TO DO SOMETHING TO DISTURB PUBLIC ORDER.

2. THE FOREGOING WAS THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECT BEING DISCUSSED IN LOW VOICES AT CZECH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION YESTERDAY AND THE DEGREE OF PL CONCERN WAS MANIFESTED BY THE VERY LARGE TURNOUT OF LPF TROOPS AT THE CZECH RESIDENCE. I WENT ASIDE WITH FONMIN PHOUMI VONGVICHIT AT THIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 03743 101201Z

RECEPTION AND TOLD HIM I HAD RECEIVED HIS MESSAGE FROM

CANADIAN DELEGATE SIMARD AND THAT I WAS ANXIOUS TO AFFIRM TO HIM AS FORTHRIGHTLY AS I COULD THAT THE U.S. AND THE THAI FORCES WHICH IT HAD BEEN SUPPORTING WERE NOT REPEAT NOT INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN ANY ACTIVITY WHICH MIGHT BE CONTRARY TO THE NEUTRALITY AND WELL-BEING OF THE RLG. I SAID THAT I TOO HAD HEARD RUMORS OF IMPENDING ACTION BUT THAT I COULD GET NOTHING VERY PRECISE IN TERMS OF HARD INFORMATION. THERE HAD BEEN SOME TALK OF TANKS AT CHINAIMO. THIS WAS NONSENSE AS THERE ARE NO TANKS WHATSOEVER IN THE KINGDOM OF LAOS. IF ANY SOLID INFORMATION WERE PROVIDED ME, I WAS POSITIVE THAT IT COULD BE EITHER DISPROVED OR EXPLAINED.

3. PHOUMI ACCEPTED MY COMMENTS IN GOOD FAITH BUT HE APPEARED TO CONTINUE TO SUSPECT THAT SOMETHING WAS IN THE WIND.

4. I ALSO HAD A CHANCE TO TOUCH BASE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WHO SAID THAT PHOUMI HAD EARLIER COME TO SEE HIM TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN. HE SAID THAT HE HAD REASSURED PHOUMI AND CONFIRMED TO ME THAT AS FAR AS HE COULD MAKE OUT THIS WHOLE AFFAIR WAS BASED ON FANTASY.

5. I ALSO HAD A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND TO MAKE THE U.S. POSITION CLEAR TO HIM.

6. IN THE COURSE OF A COURTESY CALL ON SOTH PHETHRASY, THE NEW PL MINISTER OF ECONOMY, THIS MORNING I WENT OVER THE SAME GROUND EMPHASIZING THAT WHILE SOME DISGRUNTLED INDIVIDUALS MIGHT BE PLANNING AN ILL-CONSIDERED ACTION OF SOME KIND, THERE WAS NO AMERICAN OR THAI SGU CONNECTION WITH SUCH AN ACTION. SOTH SEEMED QUITE CONCERNED AND ASKED ME MOST FERVENTLY TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH HIM OR FONMIN PHOUMI VONGVICHIT DURING THE NEXT 48 HOURS AND LET THEM KNOW IF I OBTAINED ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE OF INTEREST. I ASSURED SOTH I WOULD DO SO, RE-EMPHASIZING IT WAS OUR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE PGNU AND THAT I FOUND THESE RUMORS OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 03743 101201Z

DISAPPOINTING, GIVEN THE MANY PROOFS WE HAVE GIVEN OF AMERICAN GOOD-WILL.

7. COMMENT: ALL OF THIS EXCITEMENT SEEMS TO STEM FROM PL PARANOIA AND FROM FALSE OR DISTORTED REPORTS THEY ARE RECEIVING.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENTI03743
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740114-0549
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740555/aaaabxef.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: VIENTIANE 3702
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUP RUMORS IN VIENTIANE
TAGS: PGOV, LA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005